

# STATE'S ATTORNEY

## PROGRAM:

Pre-Trial Mediation

## PROGRAM ELEMENT:

Bad Check Mediation Program

## PROGRAM MISSION:

To provide the business community with a quick and effective way to recover their losses from bad checks, to identify repeat offenders and concentrate prosecution efforts on those offenders, and to lessen the burden on the court system while producing a successful result for the victim

## COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- A caring and thriving business community
- Respect for the law
- Efficient delivery of quality services

## PROGRAM MEASURES

FY02 FY03 FY04 FY05 FY05 FY06  
ACTUAL ACTUAL ACTUAL BUDGET ACTUAL APPROVED

### Outcomes/Results:

Percentage of mediation cases successfully mediated <sup>a</sup>	68.1	64.2	68.2	69	68.8	70
Monetary restitution recovered (\$)	308,560	387,501	246,589	325,000	239,957	300,000
Percentage of bad check cases recovered without court intervention	63.3	62.0	64.0	66.0	65.8	66.0
Percentage of bad check cases referred to court after failure of mediation	29.6	34.6	29.8	31.0	29.8	32.0
Percentage of bad check cases involving repeat offenders <sup>b</sup>	6.5	2.3	6.0	2.0	3.5	2.0
Fees collected (\$)	19,520	16,540	12,615	14,000	10,795	15,000

### Service Quality:

Percentage of merchants surveyed who rate the quality of service of the program as "excellent" or "good"	100	93	92	95	92	95
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### Efficiency:

Average amount per case recovered by the merchant (\$)	237.90	464.07	346.82	419.35	390.17	333.33
Amount recovered for every dollar spent (\$)	3.26	3.74	2.26	2.91	2.14	2.54

### Workload/Outputs:

Mediation cases opened <sup>d</sup>	1,297	835	711	775	615	900
Cases identified as repeat offenders <sup>b</sup>	84	20	39	30	21	18

### Inputs:

Expenditures (\$) <sup>c</sup>	94,540	103,703	109,275	111,766	112,386	118,330
Workyears <sup>c</sup>	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

### Notes:

<sup>a</sup>Mediation cases exclude repeat offenders and a small number of bad check cases that cannot be mediated or prosecuted (e.g. due to lack of witnesses).

<sup>b</sup>Repeat offender cases are taken to court without attempting mediation.

<sup>c</sup>Includes some staff time funded by the District Court.

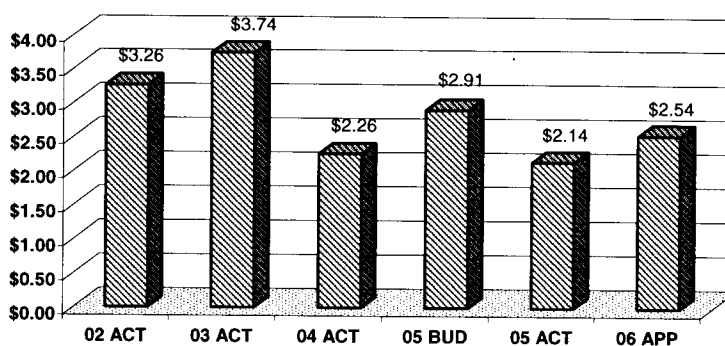
<sup>d</sup>The increase in the use of check/debit cards in the marketplace has resulted in a decrease in the utilization of checks.

### EXPLANATION:

The goals of this program are to recover restitution for merchants who have been given bad checks without having to involve the criminal court system, and to review all bad checks reported in order to identify repeat criminal activity so that such matters can be charged criminally and dealt with by the court.

The success rate for mediation cases was 68.8 percent in FY05, while revenue from fees (which is returned to the County) totaled \$10,795, and \$2.14 was recovered for every dollar spent on the program. The number of repeat offender cases decreased by 75 percent between FY02 and FY05.

Amount Recovered per Dollar Spent



**PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES:** District Court, Montgomery County Police.

**MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES:**

# STATE'S ATTORNEY

## PROGRAM:

Pre-Trial Mediation

## PROGRAM ELEMENT:

Rental Return Restitution Program

## PROGRAM MISSION:

To provide the business community with a quick and effective way to recover lost rental property, to identify repeat offenders and concentrate prosecution efforts on those offenders, and to lessen the burden on the court system while producing a successful result for the victim

## COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- A caring and thriving business community
- Respect for the law
- Efficient delivery of quality services

## PROGRAM MEASURES

	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 BUDGET	FY05 ACTUAL	FY06 APPROVED
<b>Outcomes/Results:</b>						
Percentage of cases successfully mediated	61.1	52.7	52.4	56	48.5	57
Monetary value of rental property recovered (\$)	254,357	174,408	176,080	180,000	162,630	190,000
Fees collected (\$)	1,750	1,300	2,125	3,000	2,470	3,000
<b>Service Quality:</b>						
Percentage of merchants surveyed who rate the program's quality of service as "good" or "excellent"	83	100	100	90	92	90
<b>Efficiency:</b>						
Average value of leased goods recovered by merchants (\$)	1,318	1,264	1,334	900	998	905
Amount recovered for every dollar spent (\$)	43.56	27.61	26.60	26.49	23.80	27.28
<b>Workload/Outputs:</b>						
Mediation cases opened	193	138	132	200	163	210
<b>Inputs:</b>						
Expenditures (\$)	5,839	6,316	6,620	6,796	6,834	7,125
Workyears	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

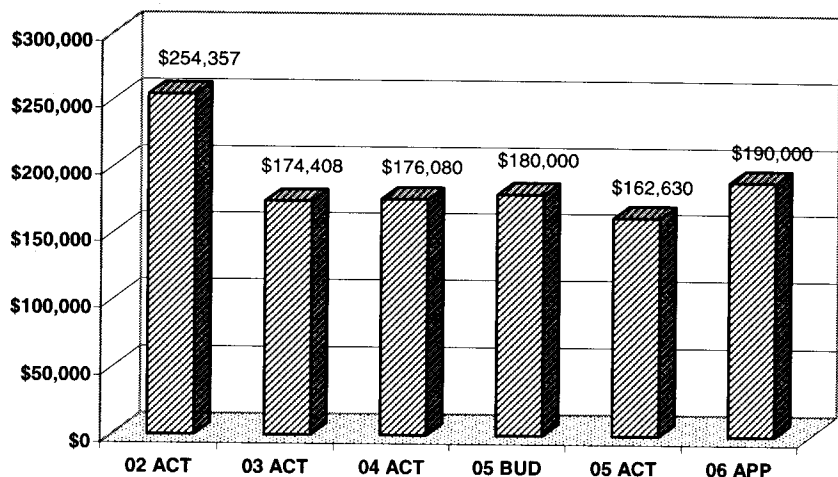
## Notes:

## EXPLANATION:

The goals of this program are to recover rental property and/or secure restitution to those merchants that provide rental services to the public without having to involve the criminal court system. In those cases that cannot be successfully mediated, this program will review the case and prepare charges so that the case can be successfully prosecuted.

The percentage of cases successfully mediated has fallen since FY02, in part because some vendors submit cases but fail to appear at the mediation hearing. In FY05, 48.5 percent of the mediation cases opened were successfully mediated, and \$23.80 was recovered for every dollar spent.

Monetary Value of Rental Property Recovered



**PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES:** Montgomery County Police, District Court.

## MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: